

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of direct methanol fuel cell Claims 16, 17, 24, 25, and 28 to 31.

In an effort to expedite prosecution and for administrative convenience independent supported catalyst Claim 4 has been amended to delete reference to an alloy of cadmium and silver. Reference to Zn in dependent Claim 23 has been deleted. Dependent supported catalyst Claims 13, 15, 22, and 23 incorporate the subject matter of independent Claim 4.

The continued rejection of presently solicited Claims 4, 13, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,127,508 to Vanderspurt would be inappropriate. Reference to a cadmium and silver alloy has been deleted from independent supported catalyst Claim 4. The withdrawal of the rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Likewise the continued rejection of presently solicited Claims 4, 13, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,072,727 to Vanderspurt similarly would be inappropriate. Reference to a cadmium and silver alloy has been deleted from independent supported catalyst Claim 4. The withdrawal of the rejection similarly is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Finally, the continued rejection of dependent Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,072,727 or 4,127,508 to Vanderspurt in combination with the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,111,134 to Hara et al. would be lacking sound basis. As previously indicated, reference to an alloy of cadmium and silver has been deleted from independent Claim 4. This removes any

possible relevancy of the primary Vanderspurt references. All carrier information provided by Hara et al. is incapable of remedying deficiencies of the primary references. The withdrawal of this rejection is urged to be in order and is respectfully requested.

If there is any remaining point that requires clarification prior to the full allowance of the Application, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter can be discussed and resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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